

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

November 28, 2007

Contact Person

Laura A. Przybylinski Finn
Assistant U.S. Attorney

MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 12 YEARS FOR ROBBING THREE MADISON-AREA BANKS

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Somphong Manavong, 35, Madison, Wis., was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 146 months in prison for his role in the armed bank robberies of three Madison area banks.

Manavong pleaded guilty on September 14, 2007, to the April 22, 2006 armed bank robbery of the Associated Bank on East Washington Avenue in Madison, and admitted his involvement in the April 20, 2006 armed robbery of the Chase Bank on High Point Road in Madison and the April 29, 2006 armed robbery of the Associated Bank in Middleton, Wis.

His sentence reflects his involvement in all three of the bank robberies. In addition to the prison sentence, Manavong was ordered to pay restitution to all three of the banks. Soubanh Senymanola was sentenced in October 2006, to nine years in prison for his involvement in the same three bank robberies.

The charges against Manavong and Senymanola were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Madison Police Department and the Middleton Police Department. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

#